

THE MEANING OF FAITH
(Hebrews 11:1-3)

- I. The ESSENCE of Faith (Heb. 11:1)
 - A. It “IS” a PRESENT and CONTINUING reality
 - B. The parallelism of *hupostasis* and *elechos*
 - 1. If taken as objective, “SUBSTANCE” (1:3) and “EVIDENCE”
 - 2. If taken as subjective, “ASSURANCE” (3:14) and “CONVICTION”
 - C. The parallelism of “things HOPED FOR” and “things NOT SEEN”
 - 1. The former are FUTURE EXPECTATIONS not yet REALIZED (9:28)
 - a. The blessings of CHRIST’S RETURN
 - b. The believer’s final GLORIFICATION
 - c. Our entrance into ETERNAL REST
 - 2. The latter are PRESENT REALITIES that are not VISIBLE
 - a. The VALUE of Christ’s ministry as HIGH PRIEST
 - b. The believer’s ACCESS to the PRESENCE of God through PRAYER
 - c. Our FULL PARDON for SIN
 - d. Our continual SPIRITUAL GROWTH
 - D. Aspects of a DEFINITION (from Homer Kent, p. 217)

1. "Faith is the confident ASSURANCE the believer has because God has provided CONVICTION about UNSEEN REALITIES"
2. "Faith is the assurance and conviction that what God has SAID is TRUE, and is to be ACTED UPON by the BELIEVER"

II. The OPERATION of Faith (Heb. 11:2)

A. ILLUSTRATED in the LIVES of the "men of old" (10:32-39)

1. They were PATIENT in ADVERSITY
2. They FOLLOWED God's LEADING
3. They TRUSTED God's REVELATION

B. Identified in Scripture as having PLEASSED GOD

III. The NECESSITY of Faith (Heb. 11:3)

A. Applies to PRESENT DAY believers

B. Requires FOUNDATIONAL confidence in God as CREATOR (1:2)

1. He made the UNIVERSE (1:2)
2. He PREPARED and PRODUCED the SUCCESSION of the AGES (1:3)

C. "What is SEEN was NOT made out of things which are VISIBLE"

1. Everything VISIBLE was made by the INVISIBLE WORD of GOD (John 1:1-3)
2. Therefore, LIFE is incomprehensible WITHOUT FAITH in GOD'S REVELATION